

Let's Sew



4-H Clothing II

● PURDUE UNIVERSITY

● Agricultural Extension Service ● Lafayette, Indiana

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Your Division II Book

By

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THIS IS YOUR 4-H Clothing II book to read, use and enjoy. Study its many ideas before you start to make your skirt, and either a simple blouse, towel, or dresser scarf.

We want to encourage you to refer to this book often. We would suggest that you keep it in your sewing box so it will be easy to find and use.

We certainly hope you will enjoy making your skirt and that you will like to wear it and be proud to say, "I made it . . ." when your friends tell you how pretty it is.

Let's Learn More About Sewing

. . . A NEW SKIRT . . . Maybe just what you've been wanting . . . A gay, colorful, "swishy" skirt . . . And, one that will go picnicking this summer or to school this fall . . . It'll go with other pretty things in your wardrobe too . . .



Figure 1. A six gore skirt.

Best of all, you can *make* this new skirt yourself in your 4-H Clothing II project . . . We hope you have fun, just sewing and sewing . . .

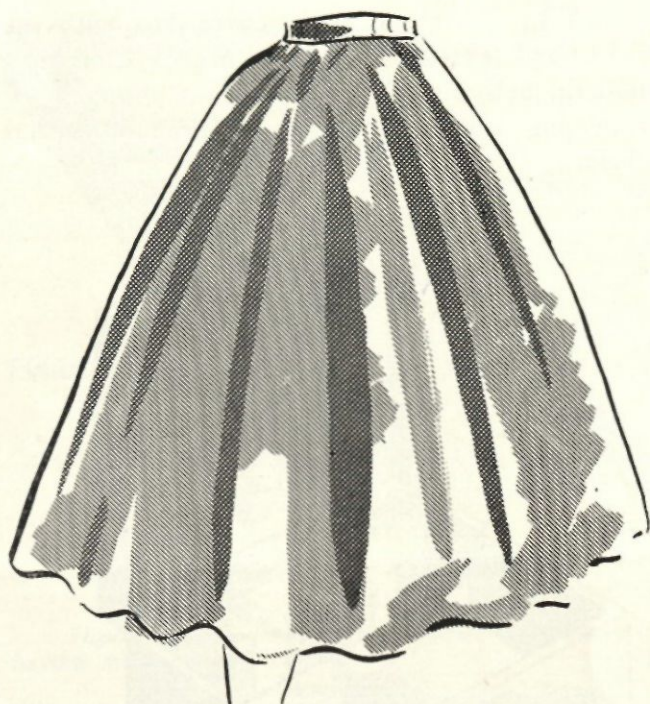


Figure 2. The gathered skirt.

Do You Still Remember?

Do you still remember all the good sewing habits you learned last year?

- Clean Hands
- Good Posture
- Good Light
- Working On A Table

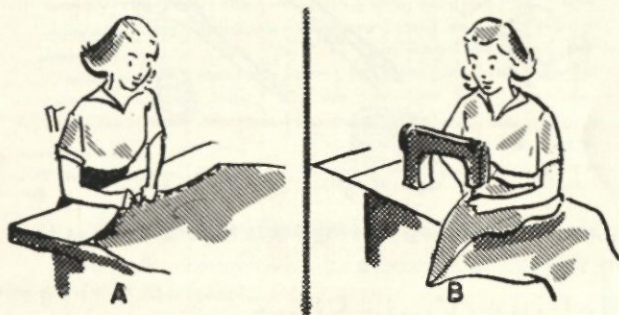


Figure 3a. Sewing is easier if your work is on the table.

Figure 3b. How is your posture at the sewing machine?

Do You Still Have Your Sewing Box?

Do you have plenty of needles and pins and your thimble? How about your good sharp scissors? You'll have more cutting to do this year.

Why not check your sewing box with the list of articles on pages 5 and 6 in your Clothing I bulletin before you go to do your shopping or collecting articles? Perhaps your mother has them.

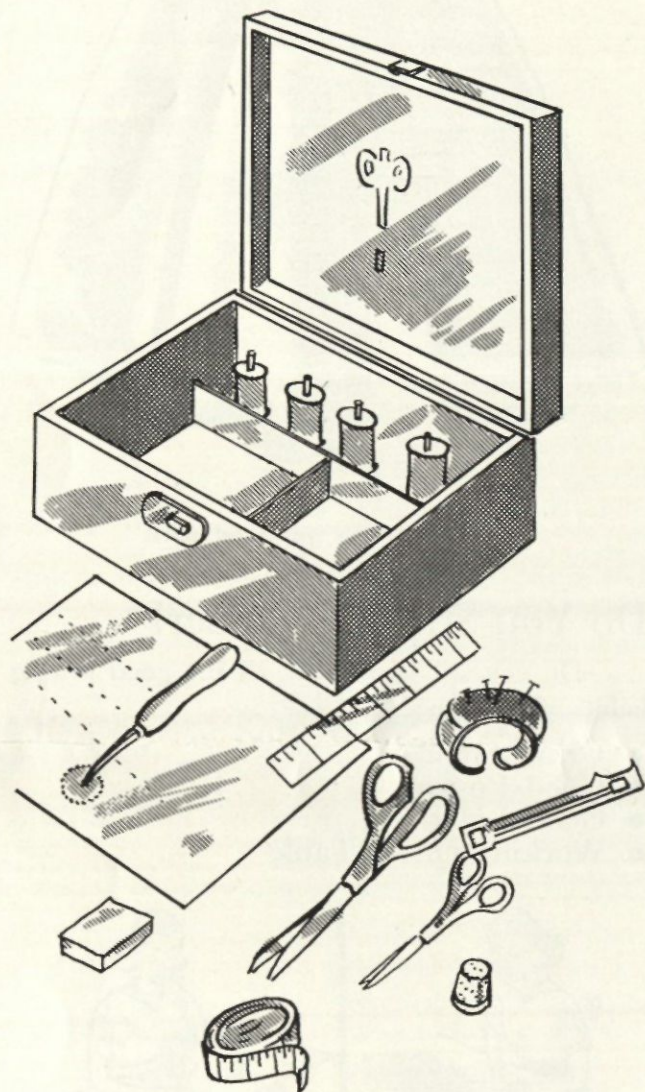


Figure 4. Keeping sewing tools together saves time.

Making Your Skirt

Let's get busy on that pretty little gay skirt that you can wear with a cute blouse you already have or one that you may decide to make. Perhaps you'd like your skirt to "pull-on" over your favorite shorts this summer.

The Pattern

What kind of a skirt looks best on you? Why not talk it over with your mother or your big sister and your leader before you choose

your pattern? We do think you should consider an "Easy-to-Make" pattern since you haven't had much experience in sewing.

How do you look in a gathered skirt? Do you like that kind? Or does a really full skirt make you look too short and "dumpy"? Maybe you would prefer an unpressed pleated skirt rather than a gathered one. Does a straighter skirt make you seem too tall? Perhaps you would like a four or six gored skirt. There are so many pretty styles. We hope you will choose the kind of skirt you like to wear and the style that brings out your best qualities.



Figure 5. Do you like to wear a gathered skirt?

The Material

After deciding on the kind of skirt, what kind of material should you get? There are so many beautiful crisp or soft cottons . . . prints, chambrays, gingham, broadcloths, or some of the newer polished or glazed cottons. Your

mother may have some colorful feed sack material you would like to use for your skirt.

It is best to select a material that doesn't require matching. Matching plaids is usually quite difficult and may require so much time that you will tire of your skirt before it is made. A plain colored material or a small all-over print is easier to make.

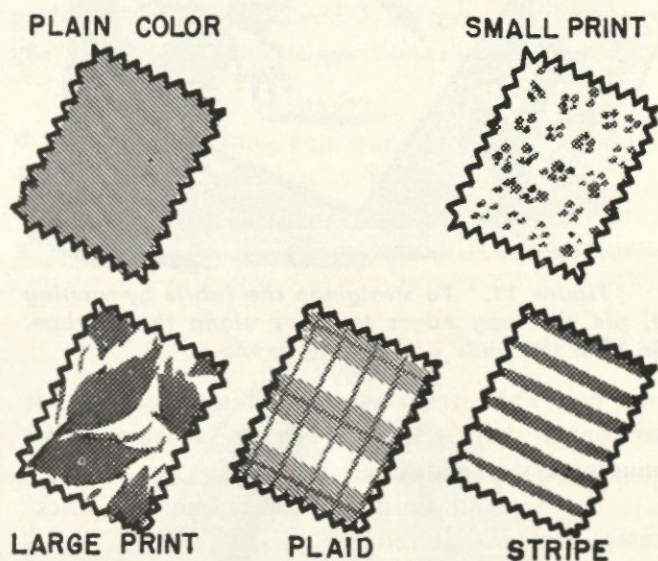


Figure 6. Usually the plain color or the small print is easier to work with than other designs, especially the plaid that may need to be matched.

If you buy a pattern, it will tell you how many yards of material you will need. Choose your thread to match at the same time you are buying the material, and you might like to get any other articles your pattern calls for, such as a zipper, buttons or hooks and eyes.

Straightening and Shrinking

Aren't you thrilled? You can hardly wait to start to cut, can you? There is one thing that will slow you up a little, but it pays to do it. Let me explain.

First of all, let's learn to call our materials—*fabrics*. That's the latest! Fabric is really a more modern word for material or cloth. If you look at the label on the end of the bolt of material in the store, you will usually find the word *fabric*.

The fabrics are woven with some threads going up and down and others going over and under. If your skirt is going to hang straight and look nice when you wear it, these threads, or the "grain" of the fabric, must run straight up and

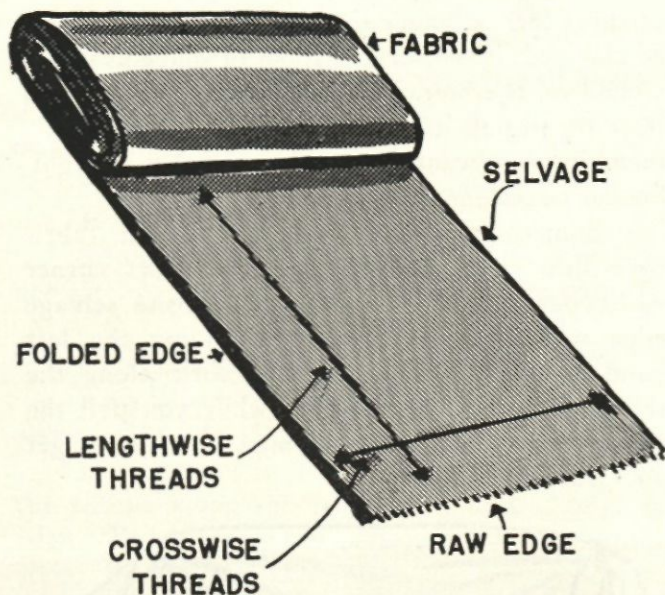


Figure 7. This is a bolt of fabric as you see it in the store.

down and straight across. Remember, we call this "grain of the fabric" or "grain line".

No doubt the saleslady tore your fabric from the large bolt. Fabrics such as plain woven cottons tear straight with the grain. But, when you look at your fabric, one side may be two

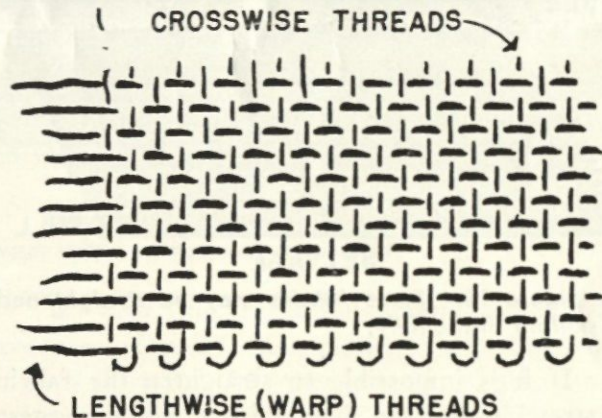


Figure 8. Lengthwise and crosswise threads are the grain of the fabric.

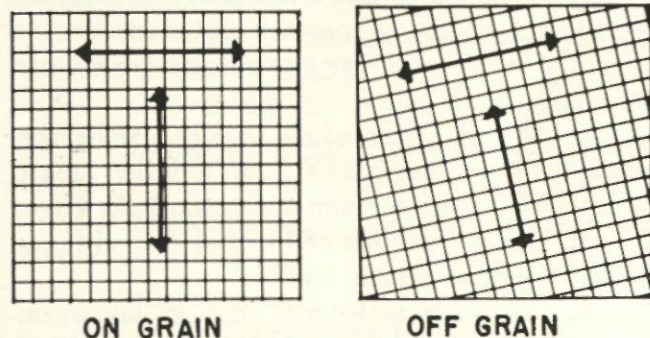


Figure 9. Horizontal arrows indicate crosswise threads. Vertical arrows indicate lengthwise threads.

or three inches longer than the other side. Don't be alarmed; it was stretched out of shape as it was wound on the bolt. Now, we need to straighten it or try to pull it back to its original shape. Remember, you want your skirt to hang straight. So, *let's straighten the fabric.*

Sometimes it is possible to pull the fabric back into shape by grasping the short corner with your right hand and the opposite selvage edge with the left hand. By sliding the left hand down the length of the fabric along the selvage and holding it secure while you pull the corner on a diagonal, you may be able to get your fabric straight.

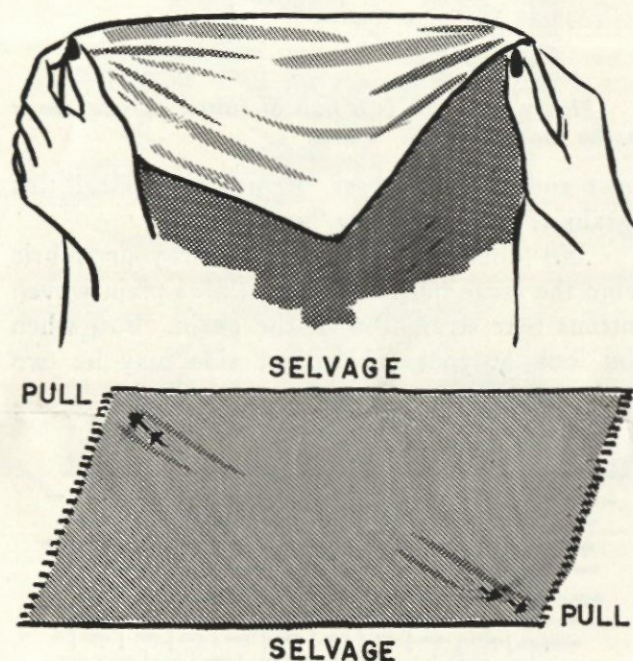


Figure 10. Some fabrics may be straightened by pulling diagonally.

If it is impossible to straighten the fabric by stretching on the diagonal, we would suggest the following:

1. Fold fabric down the center so that the two selvage edges are together and even.
2. Be sure that the two corners are exactly together at each end.
3. Pin the long edges together along the selvage. Place pins about 5 or 6 inches apart with the points of the pins out toward the edge.
4. Fold the fabric end to end several times so that it will be easy to handle.
5. While it is folded, soak in lukewarm water for a few minutes. Lukewarm is neither hot nor cold.

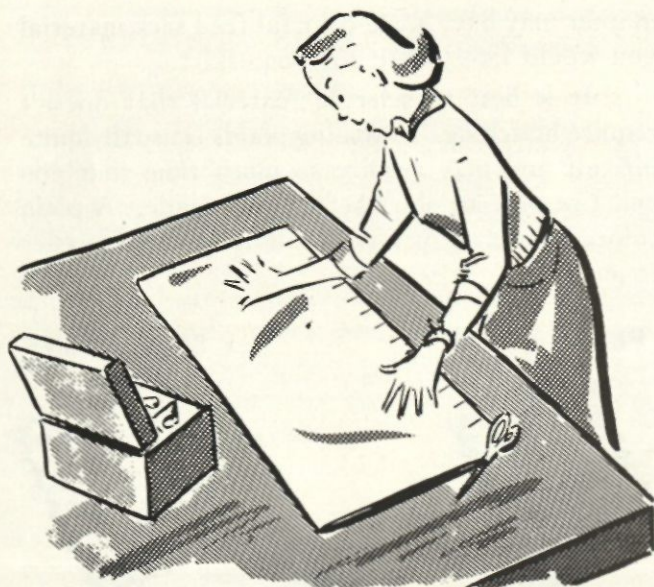


Figure 11. To straighten the fabric by wetting it, pin the long edges together along the selvage. Be sure the ends are exactly even.

6. Take from water and squeeze until it no longer drips. Do not wring, as this forms unnecessary wrinkles.

7. Unfold, until material is only two thicknesses, but do not remove pins.

8. Lay the fabric flat on a towel or sheet.

9. Working from the selvage toward the long center fold, work out the wrinkles with the palms of your hand. Turn the fabric over and do the same thing on the other side.

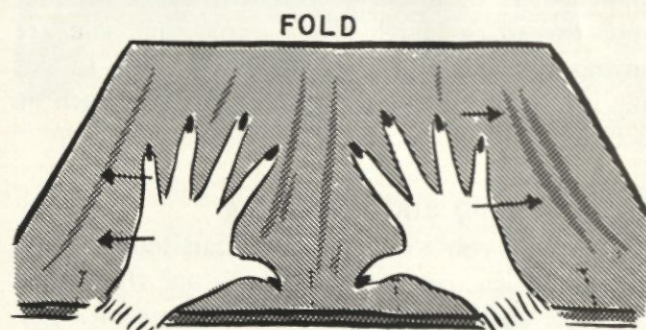


Figure 12. Work out the wrinkles with the palms of your hands.

10. When dry, remove pins. Press if necessary.

11. Polished cottons are almost impossible to straighten. So, take special notice before buying them to get those that are straight.

Some fabrics shrink when they are laundered. You would be unhappy if, after your skirt is washed the first time, it is too small, wouldn't you? When you straighten your fabric using this

method, you also shrink it, if it stays in the water 30 minutes or longer. See why we say this is a good step to take before you "cut-out" your skirt? If the fabric is labeled "sanforized", however, you can be sure it will shrink very little.

Your Skirt Without A Pattern

If you would like a straight gathered skirt, perhaps you do not need a pattern. You might like to follow these suggestions:

1. How to measure.

- Decide how long you want your skirt.
- Measure from your waist to this point.
- Add 3 to 4 inches for the hem and seams.
- You will need twice this length for your skirt.



Figure 13. Would you like to make a skirt like this without a pattern?

One length will be for the front and the other length for the back. If you want your skirt fuller, you will need 3 lengths instead of 2.

2. Select your fabric.

Remember to select a closely woven fabric that will be easy to sew and in which you can make a sharp crease.

3. Straighten and shrink.

Straighten and shrink your fabric if it has not already been shrunk, as suggested on page 5.

4. How to cut.

This is just one way. There are other good ways.

a. Cut a 6 to 7 inch strip off the edge of the fabric, along the full length of the selvage edge. Your skirt band will be made from this strip. See figure 14.

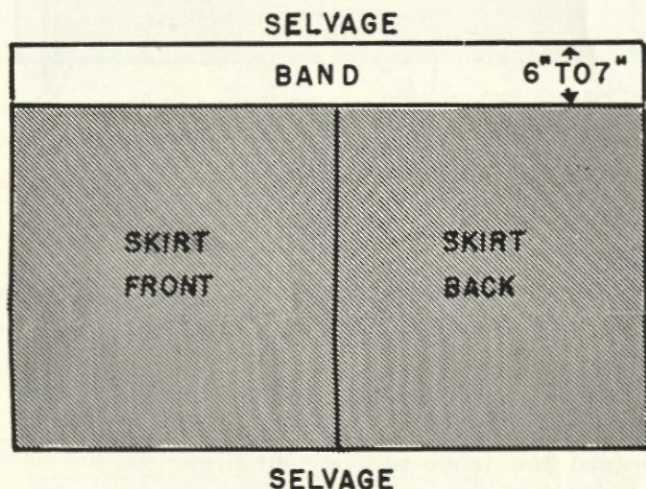


Figure 14. You may wish to follow this diagram when cutting out your skirt.

b. Cut the remaining material in half, crosswise. One of these pieces will be the front of your skirt and the other piece, the back.

c. The 6 or 7-inch strip is much too long for the band, isn't it? To cut the band the correct length, measure around your waist, and add 3 or 4 inches to that measurement. These 3 or 4 inches are needed to make the lap at the placket and to make the necessary seams.

d. Mark this length on the strip of fabric and cut.

e. The remaining material might be used for pockets.

5. Making your skirt.

a. Place the right sides of the front and back together.

b. Place pins along the edges to hold them even. Be sure the top and bottom edges are even.

c. Make the side seams. Usually you use either a $\frac{1}{2}$ or a $\frac{5}{8}$ -inch seam. If you wish to make a "turn-back" placket, you may like to make one seam a $\frac{5}{8}$ -inch seam and the other seam $1\frac{1}{4}$ inches wide. The wide seam is to be used for the placket and should be on the left side.

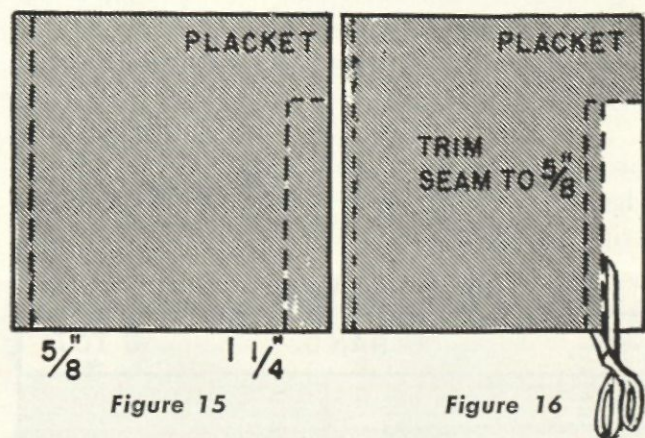


Figure 15

Figure 16

Figure 15. Here is one way to make the side seams on your skirt. This way no extra piece needs to be added at the placket.

Figure 16. Trim the left side seam to a $\frac{5}{8}$ inch seam up to the placket.

d. Stitch the wide seam from the bottom up. At a point from 5 to 7 inches from the top, stop and fasten your thread. Turn the seam toward the front section and press.

Make the other seam $\frac{5}{8}$ -inch wide. Remember to stitch the seam from the bottom to the top.

e. Start at the bottom of the wide seam and trim it to $\frac{5}{8}$ -inch up to the placket. Do not trim above this point.

f. After making the other seam, the one on the right side, press the seam open, and perhaps you should clip the selvage in a few places to prevent drawing.

g. The placket

The placket might be compared with a door. It is the opening, the way we have of getting in and out of our clothes. The placket in your skirt may be made any of the following ways:

(1) If you have made the wide seam on the left side of your skirt and would prefer making the "turn-back" placket, do this:

(Remember you have a $1\frac{1}{4}$ -inch extension lap on the left side seam.)

(a) Make a $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch hem* on the back seam edge of the placket.

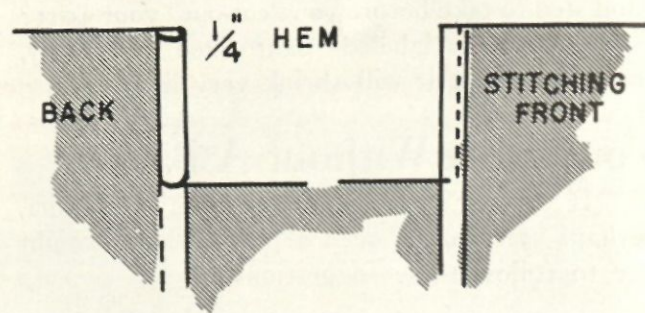


Figure 17. Finishing the hems on the front and back of the placket.

(b) Fold the front edge of the placket even with the seam line. Press. Now fold again on the raw edge to make a complete hem. Stitch from the top to the bottom of the placket, turn and stitch across the end. This is a strong, easy-to-make placket.

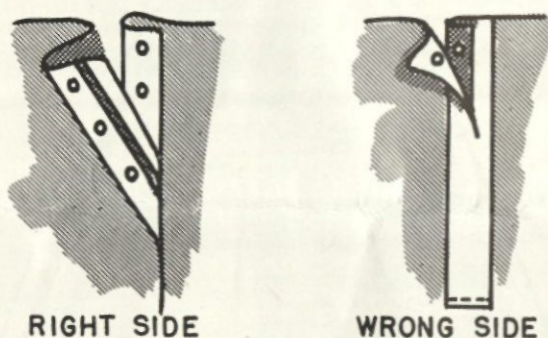


Figure 18. The finished placket.

(2) Would you prefer a zipper? There are several good ways to put in a zipper. This is one of the easy ways:

(a) Machine-baste (long stitches) placket opening. Press seam open.

(b) Attach zipper foot or cording foot to machine. Open zipper. Place face-down on back seam allowance. The zipper chain should be directly on top of the machine-basted seam. Stitch alongside of zipper.

(c) Close zipper. Turn zipper face-up. Smooth back seam allowance at edge of zipper and stitch to tape.

(d) Turn zipper face-down, flat on the seam. Stitch across lower end, up the front alongside of the chain.

(e) Press. Remove machine bastings from seam line. See figures 19-23.

(3) Another kind of placket finish is called the continuous bound placket.



Figure 19. Machine-baste (long stitch) placket opening. Press seam open.

(a) Cut a strip about 2-inches wide and 1 inch longer than twice the length of the placket opening.

(b) Place the right side of the binding on the right side of the placket opening. Pin the edges together. Stitch. See *figure 24*.

(c) Turn to the wrong side. Press. Turn raw edges under $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch. Press. Blind hem this edge to opening along stitching line.

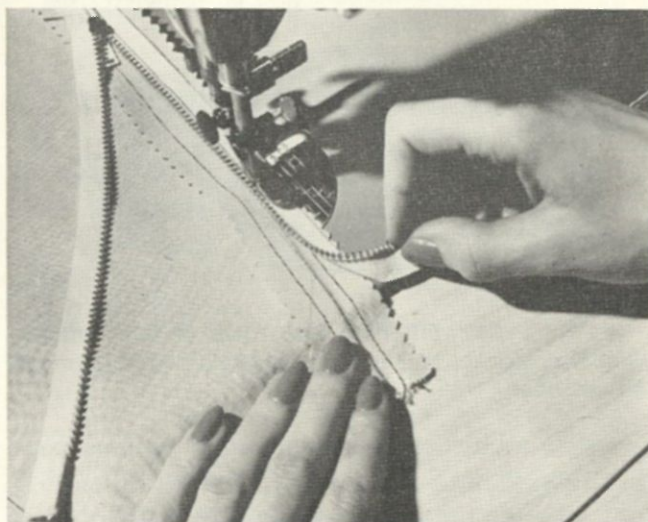


Figure 20. Attach zipper or cording foot to machine. Open zipper. Place face-down on back seam allowance with edge of teeth at seamline and bottom stop at end of basting. Stitch to seam allowance alongside of zipper.

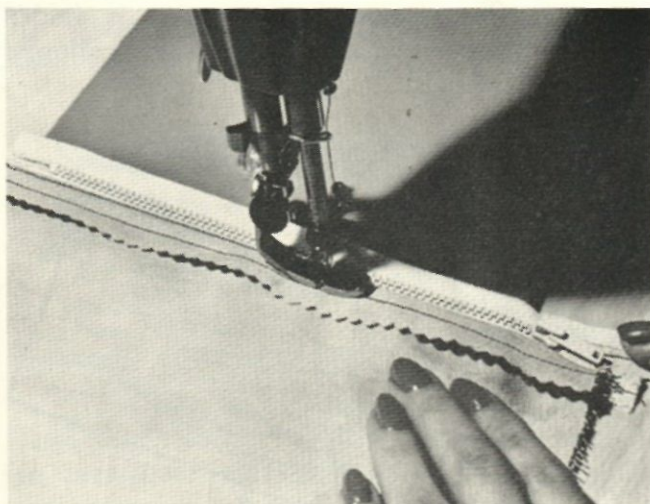


Figure 21. Close zipper. Turn zipper face-up. Smooth back seam allowance at edge of zipper and stitch to tape.

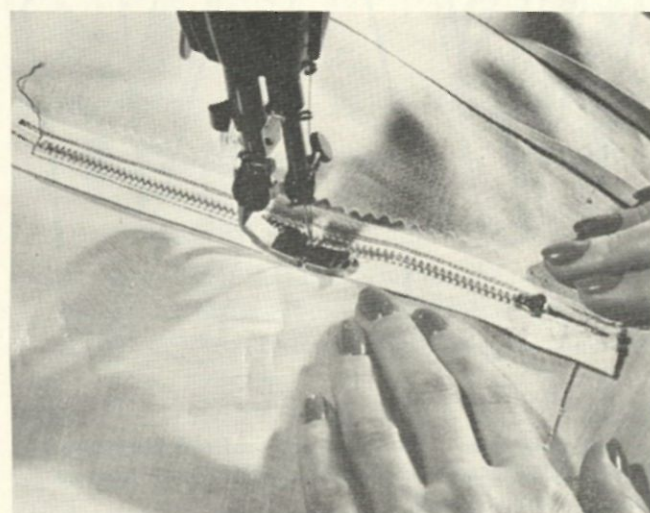


Figure 22. Turn zipper face-down, flat on seam. Stitch across lower end, up front alongside of chain.

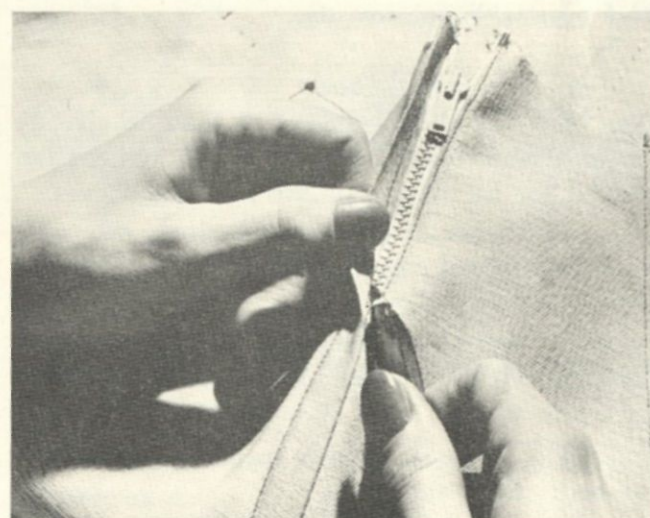


Figure 23. Press application. Remove machine-basting from seamline.

(d) The front of the placket is folded back on the seam line and the back edge is allowed to extend forward.

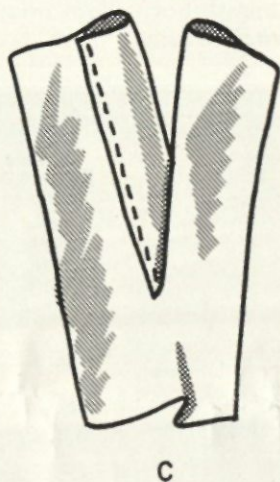
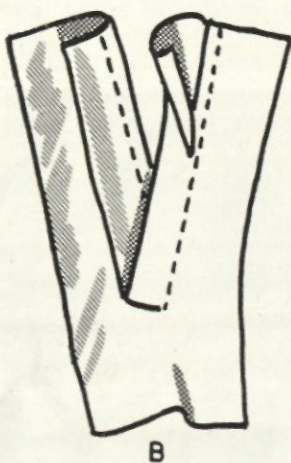
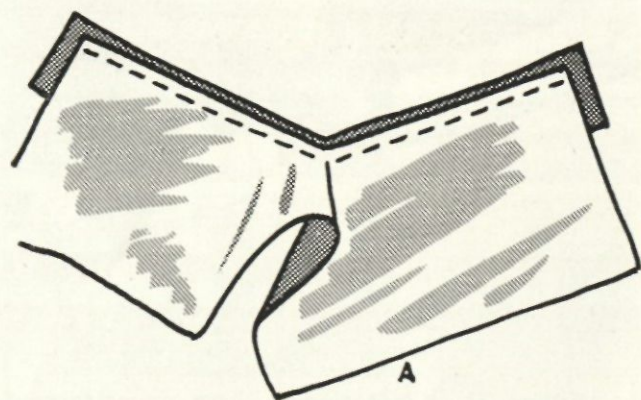


Figure 24a. The right side of the binding and the right side of the placket opening are placed together and stitched.

Figure 24b. Turn to wrong side. Turn raw edge under $\frac{1}{4}$ inch.

Figure 24c. The front of the placket is folded back even with the seam line.

h. The skirt band

Now the skirt band. You have it already cut to fit and to allow for the seams and the lap needed for the button or the hooks and eyes.

(1) Press a $\frac{5}{8}$ -inch fold along one side. From the folded edge divide the rest into thirds. Press. See figure 25.

(2) Stitch criss-cross along the band through two thicknesses. Do not stitch through part with $\frac{5}{8}$ -inch seam allowance.

(3) Make a $\frac{5}{8}$ -inch seam at the end of the belt. Turn and press.

The skirt band made with the extra thickness will be less likely to wrinkle or roll down.

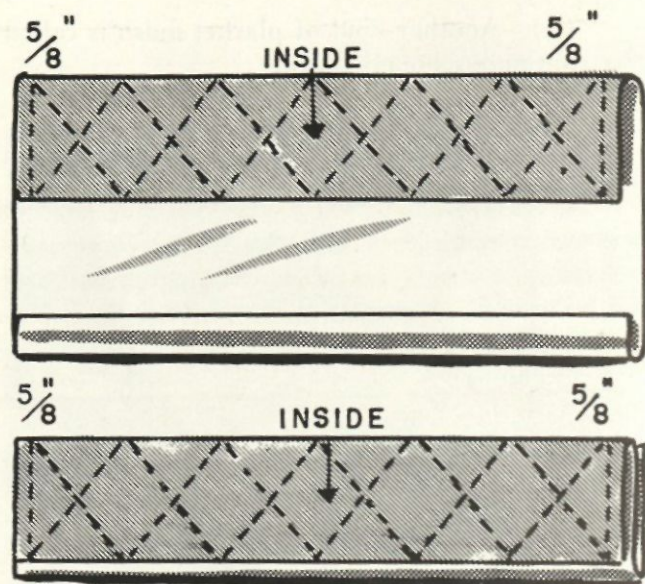


Figure 25. Turn under a $\frac{5}{8}$ inch fold on one raw edge. Divide the rest of the band into thirds. Stitch as shown, through two thicknesses.

i. The gatherings

Gather your skirt at the top. This may be done as follows:

(1) Lengthen the stitch on your sewing machine so that you are making about 7 or 8 stitches per inch.

(2) Sew from one side of the placket opening around the top of the skirt to the other side seam. Make this row of stitching $\frac{5}{8}$ -inch from the top of your skirt or, in other words, on the seam line.

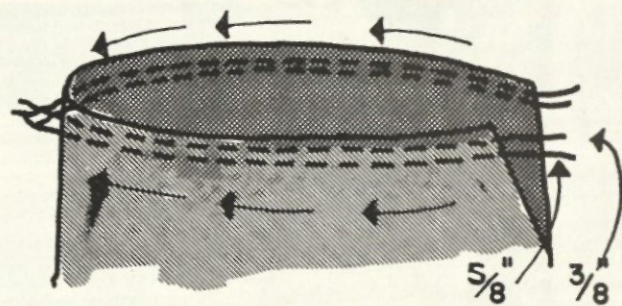


Figure 26. Stitching two rows of long stitches from the placket to the side seam in order to make the gathers.

(3) Then, sew around again in the same direction about $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch nearer the cut edge.

(4) Continue to sew the other half of your skirt the same way. You shouldn't try to gather more than a yard of material with one thread. You may even find it easier to gather only one-fourth of your skirt with one thread.

(5) Find the center front and the center back of your skirt and place a pin at each place. Then divide each fourth of the skirt in half again and place a pin at each of these points.

(6) Divide the skirt band in the same way.

(7) Place the matching pins together as seen in figure 27.

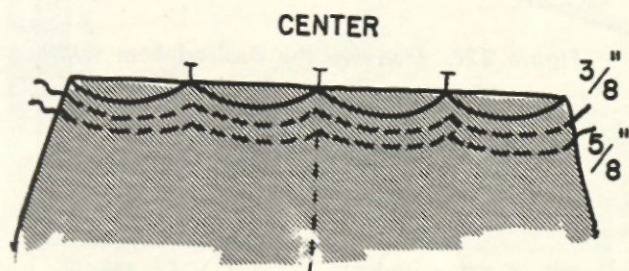


Figure 27. Matching sections of the skirt to sections of the band before pulling up the gathers.

(8) Pull up the threads. Remember these threads will be easily broken; pull slowly and carefully. If you take the two threads on the wrong side between your thumb and finger and pull them evenly and carefully while you pull the fabric with the thumb and finger of the other hand, you will soon have the gathers in place.

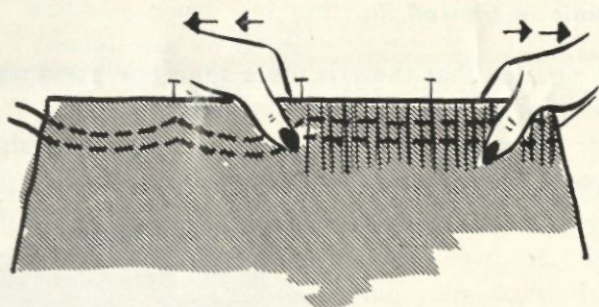


Figure 28. Pulling up the gathers.

(9) Spread the gathers evenly and pin them in place.

If you cannot lengthen the stitches on your sewing machine, you may have to put the gathers in by hand stitching. It is important to take small running stitches if you use this method.

j. Putting the band on the skirt

(1) Pin the right side of the band to the wrong side of the skirt along the gatherings. Adjust the gathers. The seam of the band should be even with the front side of the placket. The lap should extend over at the back side of the placket. You may feel you need to baste this seam or at least put pins close together so that the gathers will stay even while machine stitching.

(2) Stitch the seam. Press band on the seam line.

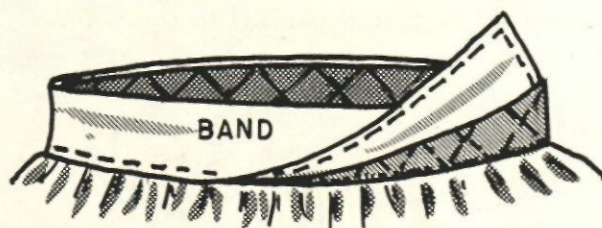


Figure 29. Stitching the band down over the gatherings on the right side of the skirt.

(3) The upper raw edge of the band has been turned and pressed on the seam allowance, so, turn down and pin or baste over the top of the gatherings covering the seam edge.

(4) Top stitch band on the right side close to the folded edge. Press.

Note: You may want your skirt band to have no stitching on the right side. If so, place the right sides together for the first seam, then turn to the wrong side and finish by hand.

k. Putting fastenings on band and placket.

A button or two buttons, hooks and eyes or gripper snaps may be used on the skirt band. If you decide to use buttons, you may ask someone to make the buttonholes for you. Sew on the buttons following the instructions given on page 23. If you use hooks and eyes or snaps, they should be sewed on with a buttonhole stitch, as shown in figure 30.

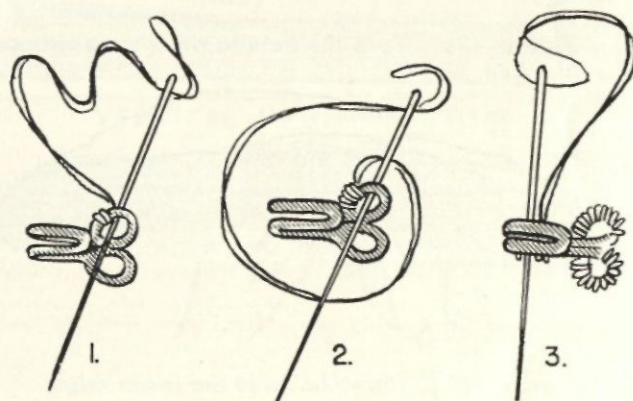


Figure 30. Hooks and eyes and snaps stay on longer if put on with buttonhole stitches like these.

l. The hem

There are several good ways to put the hem in your skirt.

(1) To mark the hem, wear the shoes you intend to wear with your skirt. Have someone

mark the hem line the desired distance from the floor, using a yardstick or a hem marker. The pins should be placed parallel to the floor.



Figure 31. Ask someone to mark your hem while you stand straight.

(2) Turn the hem under at the pin line. Baste and press lightly.

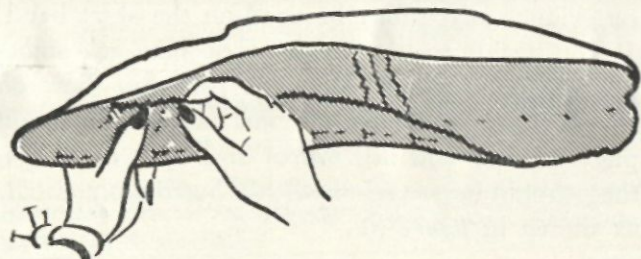


Figure 32a. Turn the hem to the wrong side on the pin line.

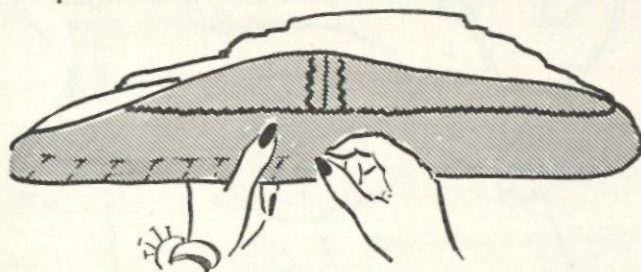


Figure 32b. Pin or baste at the lower edge.

(3) Measure the desired width of the hem (around 2 to 3 inches) from the folded edge, allow another $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch to turn under. Be sure the hem is even.

(4) There should be no extra fullness to be "eased in" in this skirt.

(5) Finishing the hem . . . Again we would

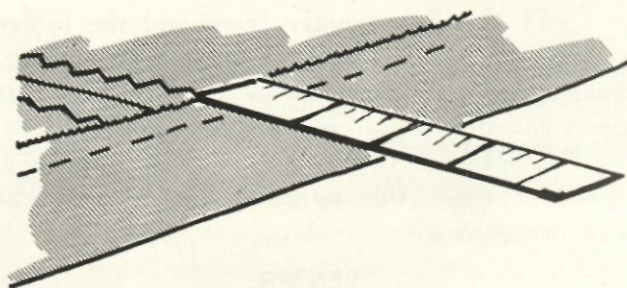


Figure 32c. Measure the desired hem width.

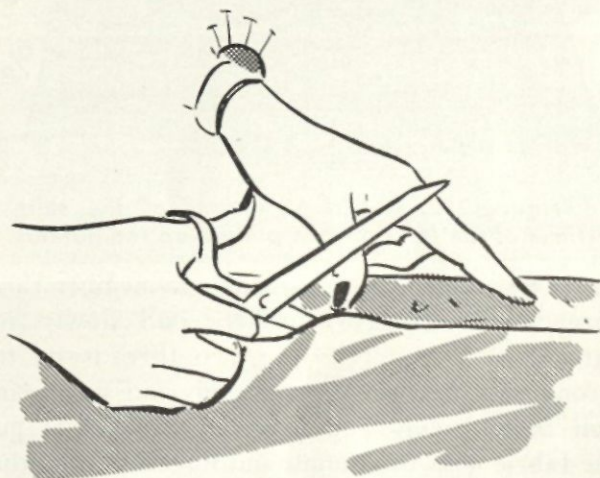


Figure 32d. Sometimes you may have some fabric to trim off.

like to say that there is more than one good way to finish a hem. Here is one way:

(a) Stitch the $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch turned down edge about $\frac{1}{8}$ -inch from the edge.

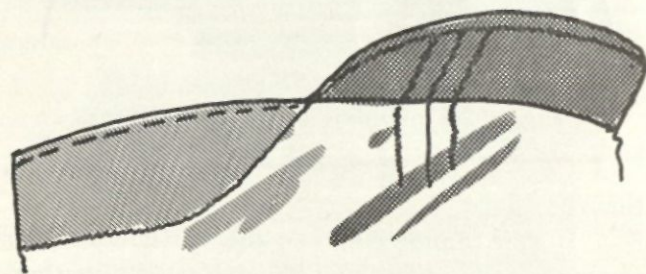


Figure 33a. Turn the raw edge to the wrong side of the hem.

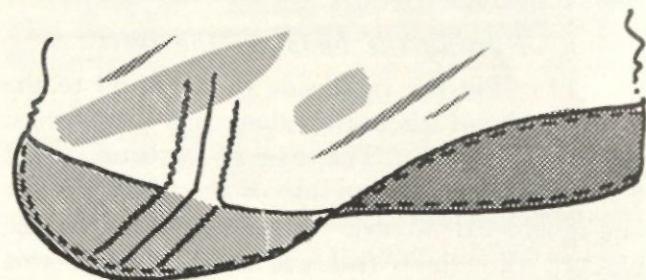


Figure 33b. You may wish to stitch about $\frac{1}{8}$ inch from the edge of this turn.

(b) Most hems are put in by hand. Pin the stitched edge to the skirt. Be sure it is smooth and that there are no puckers. An easy way to get the hem smooth is to lay it on the table, pin at each seam, at center front, and center back.

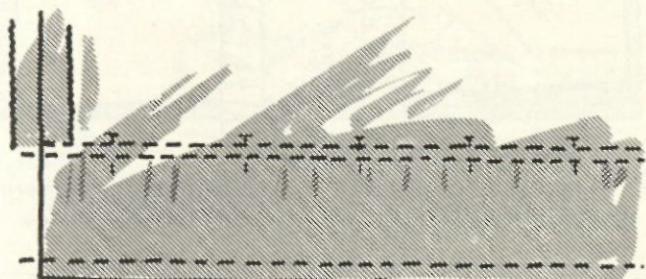


Figure 33c. Pin the stitched edge to the skirt being sure it is smooth.

(c) There are several kinds of stitches that make a good hem. Some of these are the slip stitch, the general hemming stitch, and the edge stitch. See figure 34. The important things to keep in mind are:

- The hem is to be *neat* and *not show much* on the right side.
- The stitches are *short* enough so that they will not catch and pull out easily, yet *loose* enough not to draw.
- A fine short needle makes your hand stitching easier.

Press the entire skirt carefully. Then, it's all finished and ready to wear with that cute blouse in your wardrobe! Or maybe you're going to make the blouse to wear with it. We certainly hope you like wearing your skirt. Just be sure that it is clean and neat for the 4-H exhibit.

Your Skirt Made from a Store Pattern

If you decide to make a gored skirt or if you wish to learn to use a pattern, we hope you will have opportunity to look at pattern books in the store so that you will have a choice of patterns to select from.

Remember, it is wise to select an easy-to-make pattern. Of course it should be your size, according to your waist and hip measurements.

How Does Your Pattern Fit?

You and your friends will admire your skirt more if it fits and is the right length. Don't you

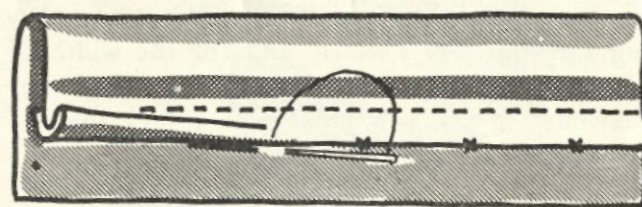
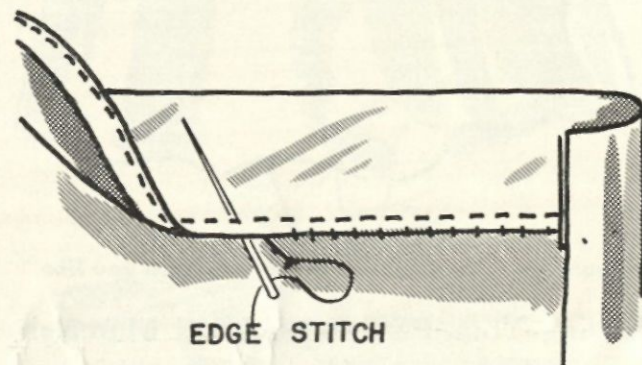
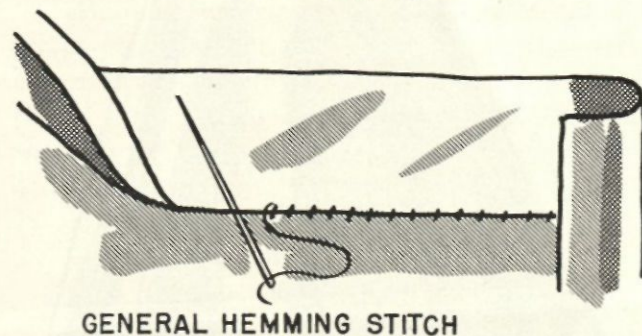
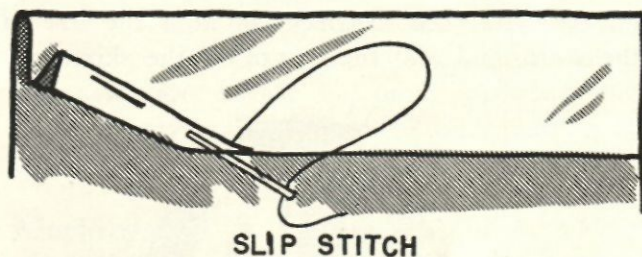


Figure 34. You might like to use one of these stitches when you put your hem in your skirt or you may use a stitch you like better.

feel uncomfortable in a skirt that is too loose or too tight at the waist?

If your skirt is to be a gored skirt, pin the pieces of your pattern together at the seam lines and try it on. Remember to try it on over your slip rather than your dress or skirt. They are bulky and will make a difference in the fit of your skirt. Check the length. Will it be long enough to allow for the width hem you want? If it is too long, too short, too big, or too little, you should alter the pattern according to the pattern guide. If your skirt is to be a gathered

one, all you need to check for fit is the size of the waistband and the length of the skirt.



Figure 35. "Hope you can find a pattern you like."

Laying Your Pattern on Your Material

Study your pattern guide. You will find one "lay-out," a diagram showing the pattern placing for your size pattern, and for the width of your fabric. Why not draw a circle around that "lay-out" so you will be sure to follow the one for you?

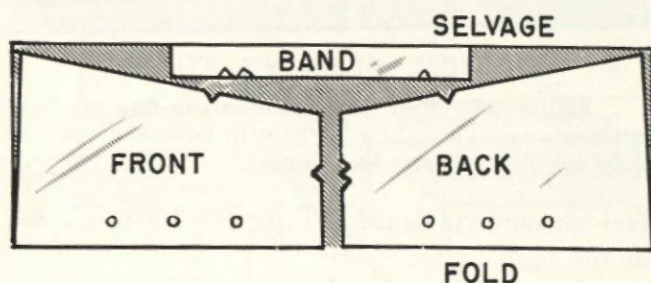


Figure 36. A "lay-out" of the pattern showing how to place the pattern on the fabric.

Now if you can lay your fabric out on a table, it will be easier to handle. Fold the fabric as shown in the "lay-out".

Lay all pieces of the pattern on your fabric, being careful to lay the pattern straight with the "grain" or on the straight of the fabric.

Before you cut, it would be wise to ask—

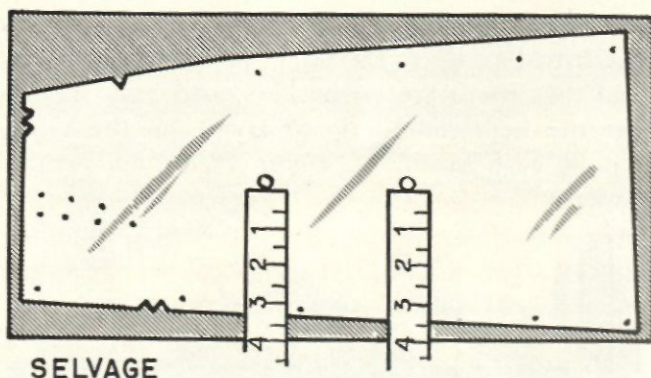


Figure 37. It is important to lay the pattern on the grain line or on the straight of the fabric.

your leader, junior leader, mother, or sister—to see that you haven't made a mistake in laying out your pattern. Better be safe than sorry! Pin carefully. Pins are usually placed perpendicular to the edge of the pattern, as in figure 38.

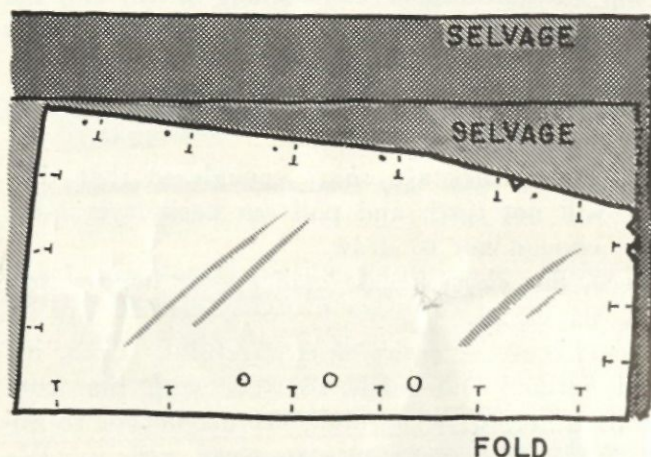


Figure 38. These pins are placed perpendicular to the edge of the pattern.

Now, You're Ready to Cut.

Don't be afraid! It's fun, just like you used to cut out your paper dolls, only a little more carefully, for some of you, maybe!

Here are some suggestions:

1. Cut as close to the edge of the pattern as possible. Cut on the cutting line if your pattern has such a line.
2. Use rather long cutting strokes with your sharp scissors. Place your left hand on the pattern and fabric as you cut to prevent the pattern and fabric from slipping. See figure 39.
3. Cut out the garment in the direction shown by arrows if your pattern shows these. Some patterns do not show direction for cutting,

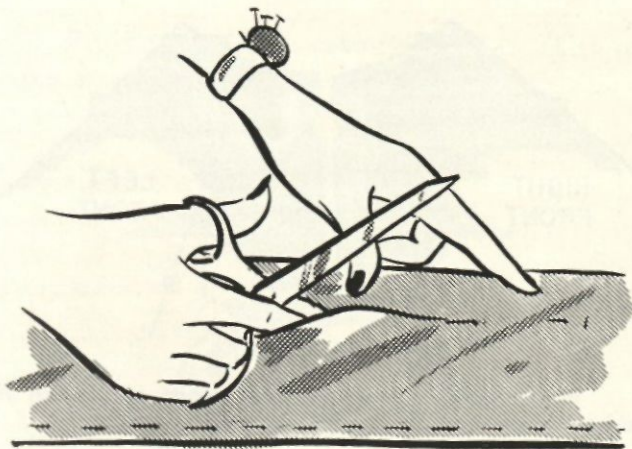


Figure 39. As you cut close to the pattern, place your left hand on the pattern and fabric.

but if your pattern doesn't you should cut with the "grain". See figure 40.

4. It is usually better to cut notches away from the pattern instead of into it, as some patterns show. See figure 41.

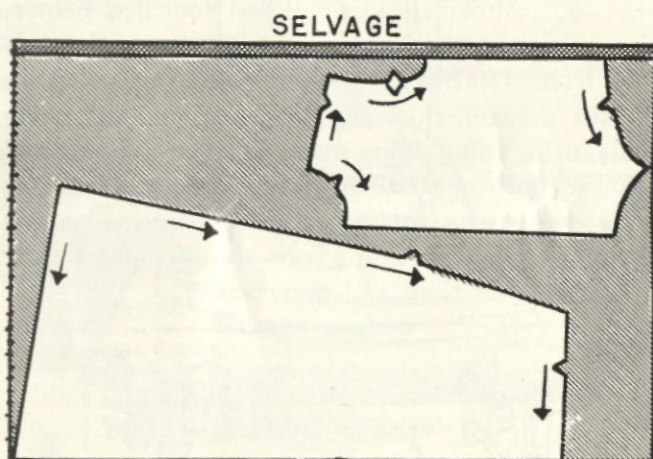


Figure 40. The arrows show the direction which you should cut.

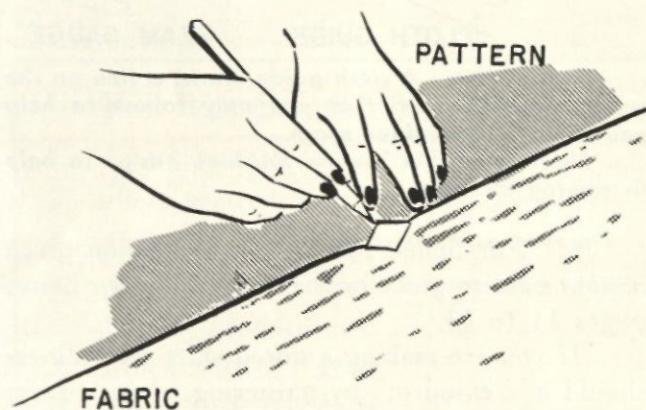


Figure 41. Mark and cut notches away from the pattern.

5. Leave your pattern pinned to the fabric until you do the necessary markings. As you cut each piece, fold it and put it with the other pieces of that unit. This saves time hunting for the pieces that are to be joined together.

Markings

Before removing your pattern from the pieces you have cut, you should make the markings that your pattern calls for, such as darts, pleats, and buttonholes. There are several good ways to put these markings on the fabric. Some are as follows:

1. Using a tracing wheel and tracing paper.
2. Using tailor tacks.
3. Marking with tailor's chalk.

Then remove the pattern when you are ready to sew.

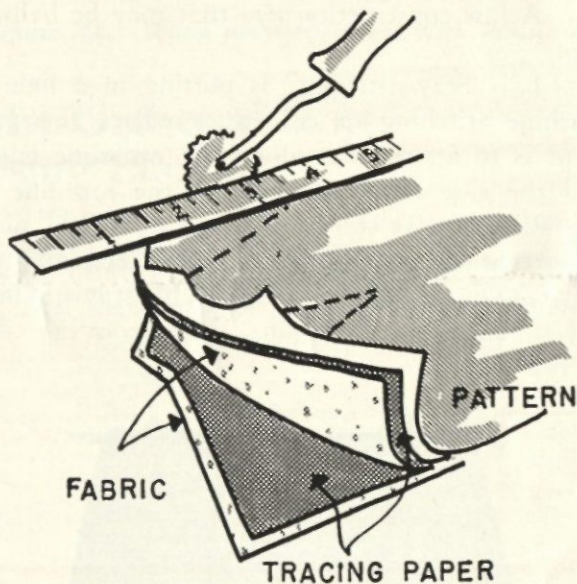


Figure 42. Using tracing paper.

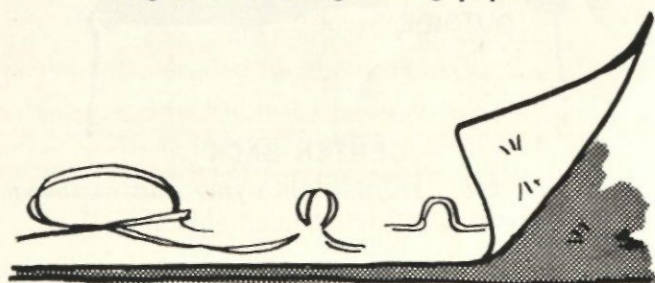


Figure 43. Tailor tacks.

Study and Follow Your Pattern Guide

Now, it's going to be fun putting all the pieces together. It is good to study your pattern guide and follow along as it suggests.

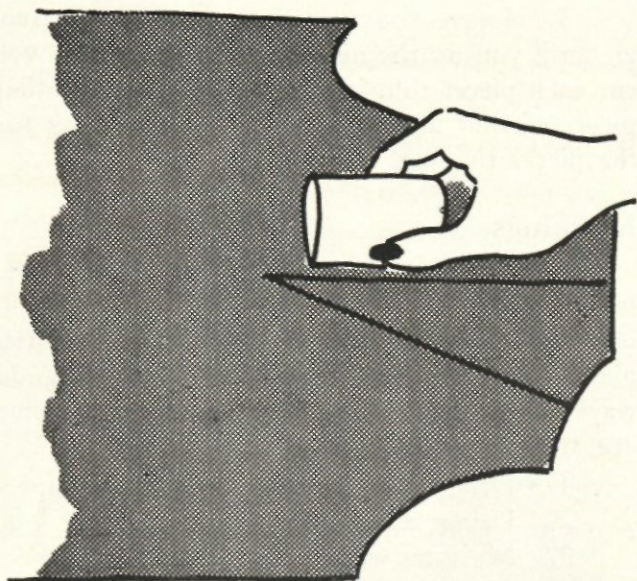


Figure 44. Using tailor's chalk.

A few construction *tips* that may be helpful are:

1. "Stay-stitching" is putting in a line of machine stitching on all edges where the garment is to fit, such as along the waistline edges and the side seam edges from the hip line to the waist line as shown in *figure 45*. It is most important to sew in the right direction when stay-stitching. See *figure 45*. The stay-stitching line should be made about $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch from the edge of the fabric.

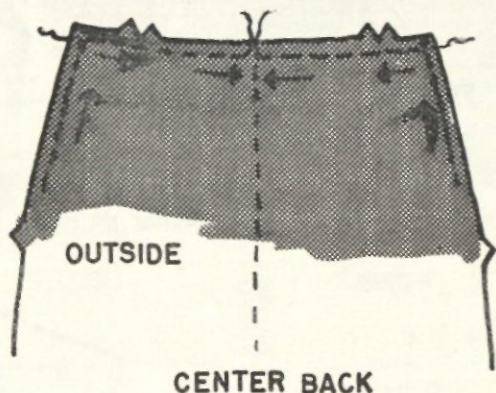


Figure 45a. Stayline stitch your skirt as shown by the arrows.

2. Use pin basting as much as possible rather than spending more time thread basting.

3. Use a cloth guide or a seam gauge on your machine to help you guide your material so your seams and stitching will be straight.

4. Follow the seam allowance as shown on your pattern. If you start at the bottom of

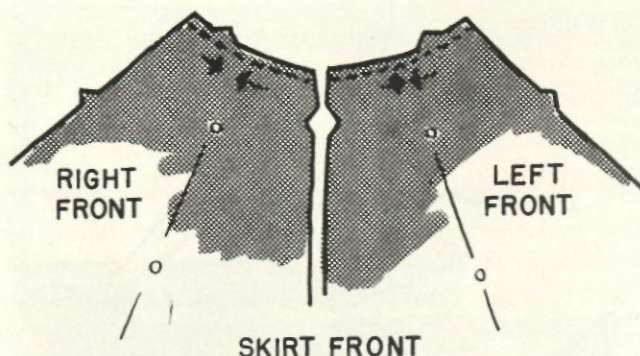


Figure 45b. Stayline stitch waist as shown if skirt is very full.

your skirt and stitch toward the top, you will be sewing with the "grain". Your skirt will usually hang straight when you sew in this direction.

Seams should be pressed open. They may be pinked, or they may be left as a raw edge. Later, you may be using a fabric that ravels a great deal; if so, you may need to use other finishes.

5. Above all, you will find your best helper, in making your skirt or any other garment, is the iron. Learn to press everything as you sew. Make a seam, then press it open on the wrong side, using some steam made by using a dampened cheese cloth or a steam iron. Turn to the right side and press again, when sewing on cotton fabrics. Good pressing can do "wonders". It "pays off" in time and appearance.

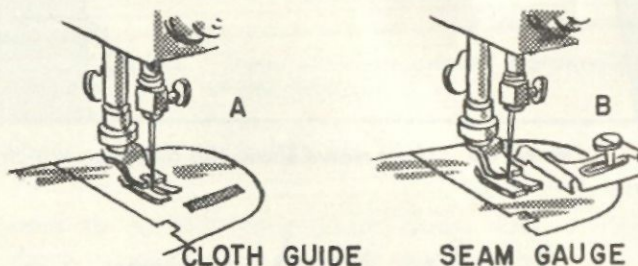


Figure 46a. A cloth guide marks a line on the sewing machine bed that you may follow to help you make a straighter seam.

Figure 46b. A sewing machine gauge to help in sewing straight.

6. For hems, follow the instruction given in your pattern guide or the suggestions for hems, pages 11 to 13.

If you are making a gored skirt the fullness should be "eased in" by gathering $\frac{1}{2}$ inch from the raw edge or by making tiny pleats before turning the edge under.

Pressing with the grain helps your skirt to hang straight. See figure 48.

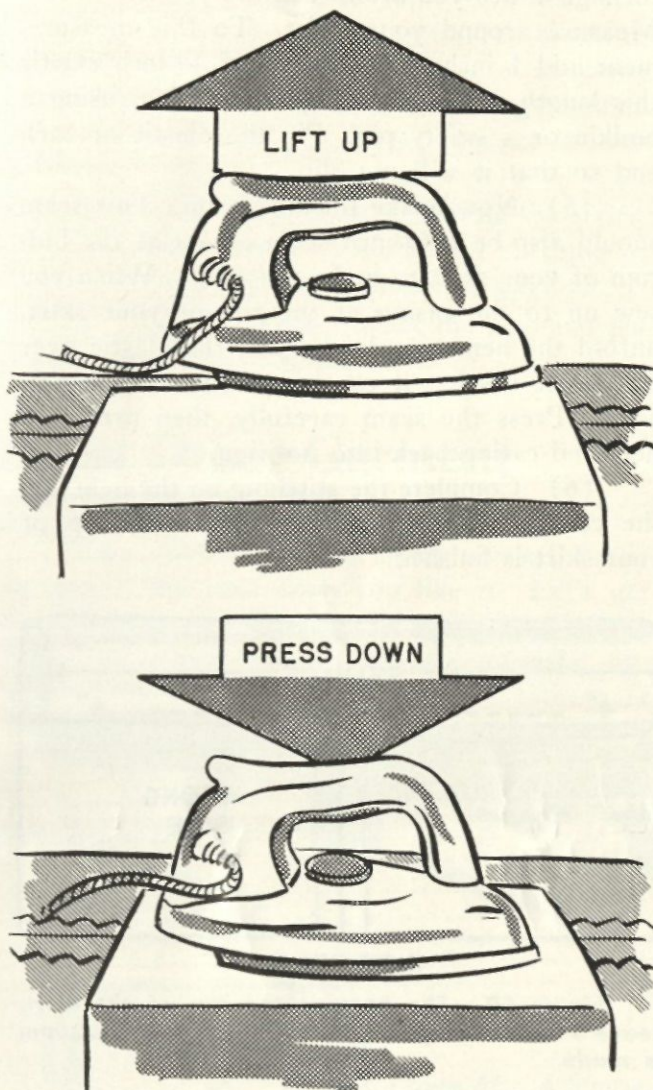
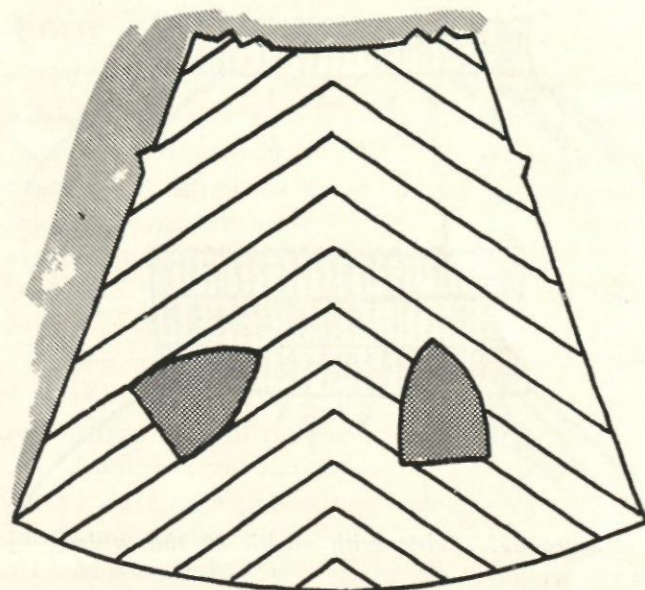


Figure 47. When pressing, use an up and down movement of the iron. Lift up and then press down instead of sliding the iron over the fabric.

For Best Results, You Should

1. Check pattern for correct fit.
2. Place pattern pieces on the "grain-line".
3. Cut with the grain with plain scissors.
4. Stay-stitch with the grain on edges that require fitting.
5. Stitch with the grain.
6. Press with the grain.
7. Press as you sew.



THIS

NOT THIS

Figure 48. When pressing, press with the grain.

The Gathered Skirt Using Elastic

This kind of skirt is easy to make too. It is a good style for the small girl.

1. Measure for fabric needed, as follows:
 Length from waist to desired length
 Add 3 or 4 inches for the hem
 Add 1½ to 2 inches for casing at the waistline

Add the above figures. This is the amount needed for the skirt front

The same number of inches are needed for the skirt back.....

Add the last two figures. This is the total number of inches needed for the entire skirt....

Divide this number by 36 inches to get the number of yards you will need for your skirt. (If you want a fuller skirt you will need 3 widths instead of 2.)

2. After you straighten and shrink your fabric as suggested on pages 5 to 7, you are ready to cut. Measure and cut your fabric exactly in half. It is best to pull a thread or tear the fabric so that it will be "grain-straight".

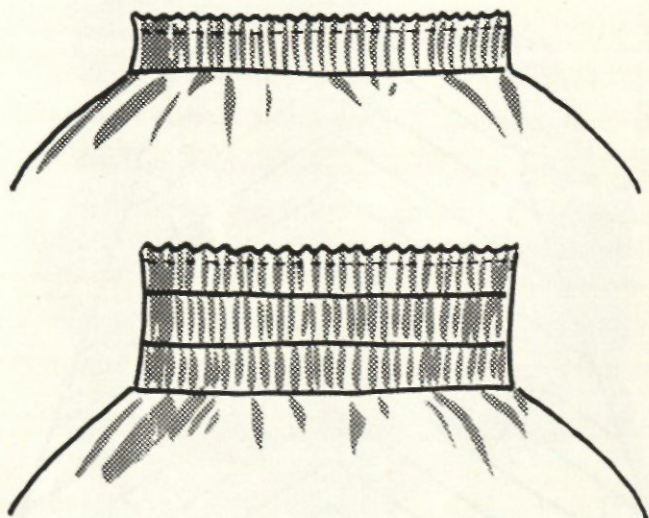


Figure 49. Skirts with elastic at the waist.

3. Pin the right sides of the skirt front and back together along one selvage edge. Make sure the pieces are even at the top and bottom. Stitch the $\frac{5}{8}$ -inch seam from the bottom to the top—just on *one* side. Press the seam open. Now, take a look . . . Just one wide piece of fabric . . . Your skirt . . .

4. At the top, turn the raw edge to the wrong side. The turn should be about $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch wide. Crease and press lightly.

5. You may choose to make the top of your skirt one of a variety of ways. Here are two:

a. If you want *one* row of $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch elastic at the top, do this:

(1) With your gauge set at $1\frac{1}{4}$ inches, measure and mark a line with pins or tailor's chalk $1\frac{1}{4}$ inches from the creased edge you just made. Turn to the wrong side along this line. Press a crease at this line. Now you have a hem $1\frac{1}{4}$ inches wide turned down and ready to stitch.

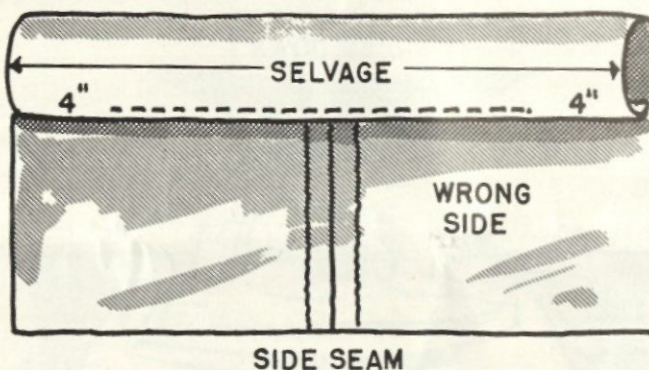
(2) Pin the hem in place. Stitch as close to the edge of the hem as possible. However, start stitching about 4 inches from the selvage edge and leave about 4 inches at the other side too. See *figure 50*. This space will allow you to run the elastic into the casing and finish the side seam to the top of the skirt.

(3) With your gauge set at $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch, mark a line $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch from the top edge of the skirt. Stitch along this line. Again begin the stitching 4 inches from the selvage and end it that far from the opposite selvage. This $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch space is the heading at the top of your skirt.

(4) There is approximately a $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch space below the line just stitched. This is the casing through which you are to run the $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch elastic. Measure around your waist. To this measurement add 1 inch. Cut a piece of $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch elastic this length and run through the casing, using a bodkin or a safety pin. Pin the elastic at each end so that it will not slip.

(5) Now, make the side seam. This seam should also be a $\frac{5}{8}$ -inch seam. Start at the bottom of your skirt to make the seam. When you sew up to the casing at the top of your skirt, unfold the hem completely, pull the elastic over into place so that it can be sewed into the side seam. Press the seam carefully, then press the hem and casing back into position.

(6) Complete the stitching on the hem and the casing. Fasten your threads. The top of your skirt is finished.



SIDE SEAM

Figure 50. The hem at the top of the skirt. Leave 4 inches not stitched until the second side seam is made.

b. If you want 3 rows of $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch elastic at the top of your skirt, do this:

(1) Set the gauge at $1\frac{3}{4}$ inches and mark a line $1\frac{3}{4}$ inches from the $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch fold. Follow the instructions on pages 11 to 13.

(2) Stitch the hem, leaving about 4 inches of space from each selvage.

(3) Mark and stitch a line $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch from the top of your skirt for the heading.

(4) Mark and stitch another line $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch below the $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch line. This space is for one row of elastic.

(5) Mark and stitch another line $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch below the line just stitched. This is for the second row of elastic. This row is approximately $1\frac{1}{4}$ inches from the top of the skirt.

(6) There is another $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch space below

the one for the second row of elastic. This space is for the third row of elastic.

(7) Measure around your waist and add 1 inch to this measurement. Cut three pieces of $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch elastic this length. Run the elastic through each of these three spaces, using a bodkin or a safety pin. Pin this elastic in place to keep it from slipping.

(8) Make the side seam, sewing the elastic into the seam. Finish the hem and stitching at the top of your skirt as suggested on page 18.

6. Then the Hem. Mark the hem and put it in as suggested on pages 11 to 13.

Your Other Garment or Article

Your skirt is finished, neatly pressed, ready to wear. We sure hope you like it. Let's get busy on your next garment or article.

You have a choice. Choose to make *one* of the following to complete your Clothing II Project.

- A simple blouse
- A towel
- A dresser scarf



Figure 51. A blouse.

Figure 52. Or a towel.

Figure 53. Or a dresser scarf.

Your Blouse

If you should choose to make a blouse, wouldn't you like to make one that would look "super" with your new skirt? Don't forget, it ought to be simple. One of the most important things to consider, perhaps, is that your skirt and blouse have a "costume look". We mean by a "costume look", that these two garments look as if they belong together . . .

We might think of them as tied together with a color in one matching a color in the other, or maybe a trim of the skirt fabric on the blouse.

Another combination might be a plain fabric in the skirt and a matching color in the blouse fabric which might be an all-over print.

Maybe it is just a plain white blouse with a floral designed skirt, but both are fluffy and gay.

Let's remember, keep it simple and easy-to-make, so that you won't be spending too much of those beautiful sunny days at your sewing machine.

After choosing your pattern and fabric, remember to shrink and straighten your fabric as you did your skirt fabric. Then, lay your pattern on the fabric. Check and cut, using the same care as in the skirt. Mark any construction details your pattern shows.

In your blouse you may have two or three new problems that didn't come up in making your skirt. Some of these new problems might be:

- Stay-line stitching
- Darts or tucks
- Facings
- Hem finishes for a blouse

Stayline Stitching

Perhaps you did some stayline stitching when you were making your skirt. Stay-stitching is a row of machine stitching, sewed about $\frac{1}{2}$ inch from the edge of each piece of the garment. It is important to put in this stayline stitching on all edges that require fitting. The main purpose in stay-stitching is to hold the grain line in place, so the stitching must be done in the correct direction. See figure 55.

Darts, Tucks and Gathers

Darts, tucks and gathers are put in the garment to take up or allow fullness at certain places.

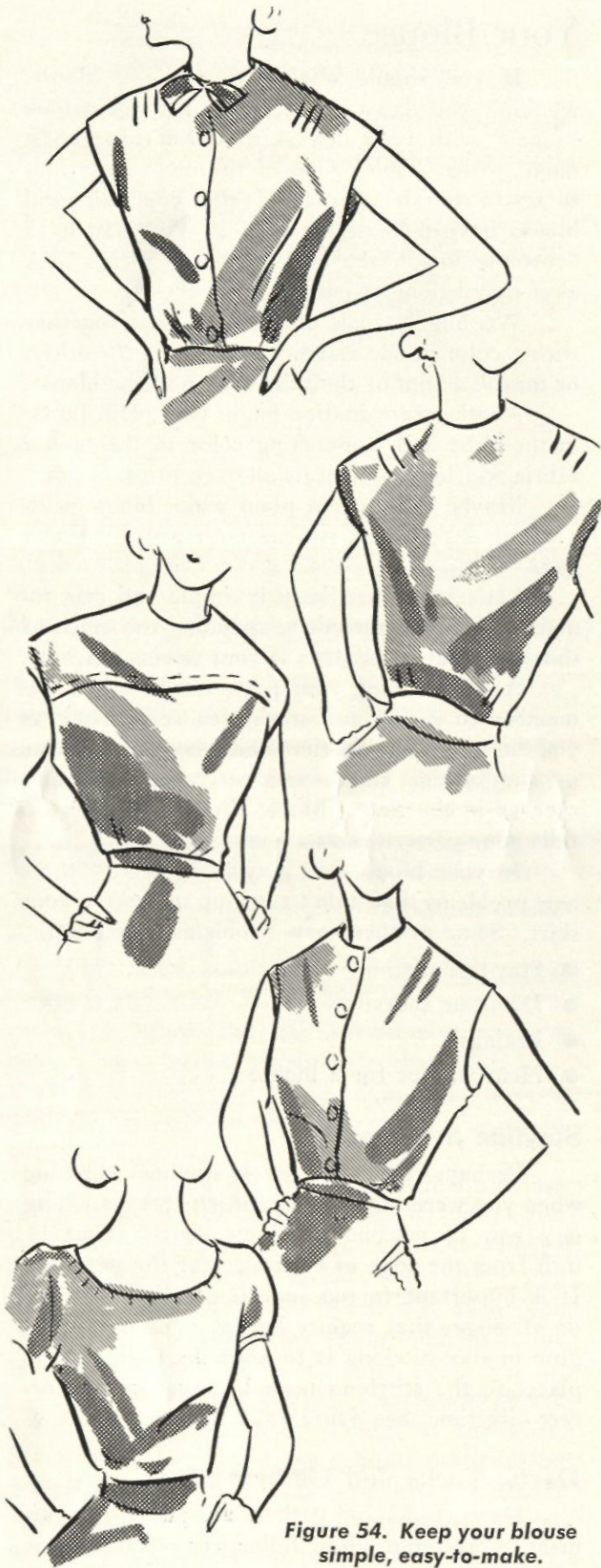
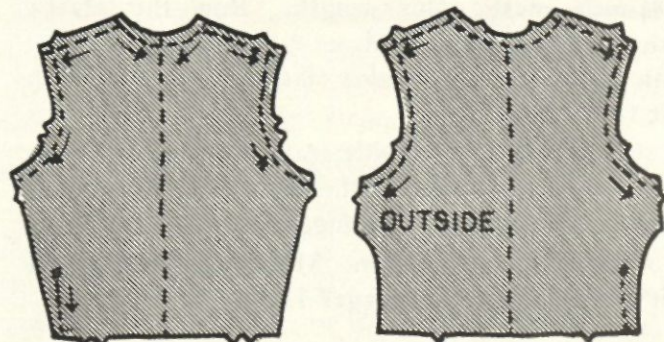


Figure 54. Keep your blouse simple, easy-to-make.

Both darts and tucks help to make the garment fit. A dart is a fold of fabric stitched from a certain specified width to nothing at one or both ends.



CENTER BACK

CENTER FRONT

Figure 55. Your blouse should be stayline stitched as shown. The direction you stitch is important because it holds the grain in place. Stitch in the direction shown by the arrows.

Making the Dart

1. Stayline the edges of the garment before making the darts.
2. Pin together the lines marking the darts. Stick a pin from one side of the marking through to the opposite side of the dart and then pin the fabric together exactly on the marked line.
3. The pins should be placed on the stitching line so they can be removed as the dart is stitched.
4. It is usually best to start stitching at the wide end of the dart.

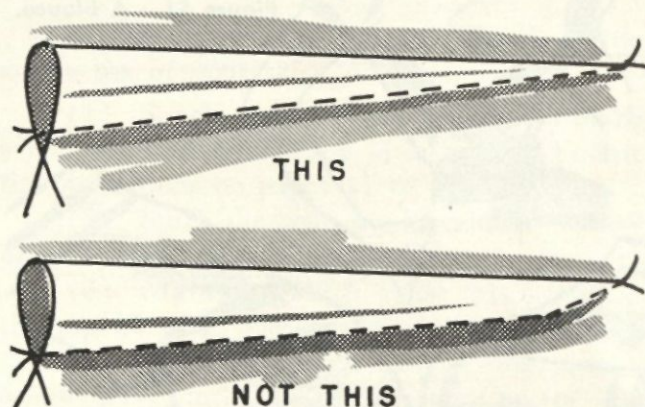


Figure 56. The dart should be stitched to nothing at the end so that there will be no puckers.

5. Stitch exactly on the marked line.
6. Gradually taper the line off to nothing to avoid puckering at the end. Then, check to

see that the darts on the two sides of the garment match.

7. Fasten the threads at the tapered end of the dart. Cut off the threads, leaving $\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 inch ends. Press carefully. It is best to use a pressing cushion when pressing darts, so that beyond the point of the dart the material will better fit the curve of the body.

Making A Tuck

Tucks are like darts in that they help to make the garment fit. The difference between a tuck and a dart is that a tuck is usually the same width rather than coming to a point at one or both ends. When making the tuck, mark and follow the markings just as in making the dart. Draw the stitching threads to the wrong side and tie as in the dart.

Neck Finishes and Facings

The neck finish is often the highlight of the blouse or dress. You see, since it is so near the face, it is noticed before other parts.

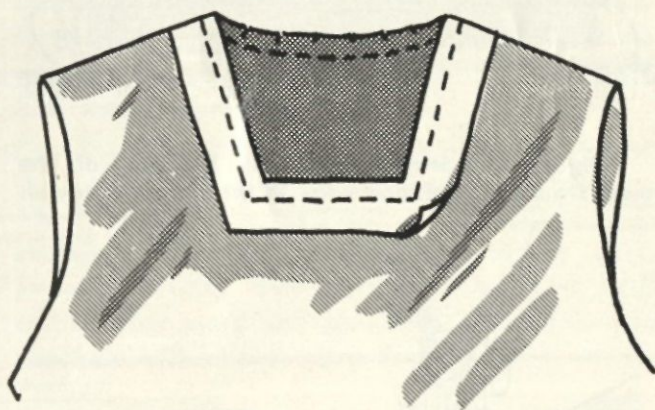


Figure 57. A fitted facing is first stitched on the right side of the neckline and then turned to the wrong unless it is to be used for decoration.

Neck edges are finished with a facing, a binding, or a collar. The collar is the most difficult finish so we think it might be better if you used a facing or a binding for this blouse.

1. Since the neck edge is curved or bias, it should always be stayline stitched in the correct direction to keep it grain-perfect. A fitted facing is cut exactly on the same grain as the edge to be faced. So, it should be staylined in the same way as the neck edge.

2. It is also good to stayline the outer edge

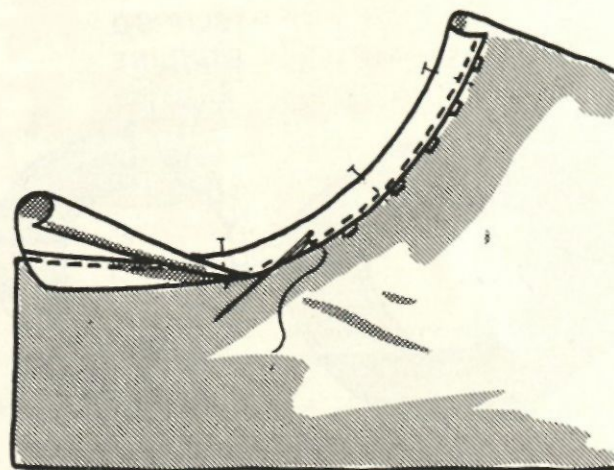


Figure 58. A bias binding may be used as a finish on a curved edge too.

of the facing, so that it will be easy to turn back and finish.

3. If the neckline is small so that it will not go over your head, you will have to have some kind of placket. If your blouse does not open all the way down the front or back, you will find it easier to make the opening, if you make your pattern wider to allow for a center seam. Then you will not have the problem of slashing the opening.

4. Clip the neckline seam of the blouse and the facing. Clip as far as the stayline stitching.

5. Join the front and back facings at the shoulder seam. Press and trim these seams.

6. Place the right side of the facing and the right side of the blouse together.

7. Stitch as a straight seam. Press the seam open and trim the seam to $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch.

8. Turn the facing to the wrong side. Pull the facing slightly to the underside and press carefully.

9. Turn the seam on to the facing and top stitch to prevent the facing from showing on the right side. Press and stitch on the edge. Fasten the facing to the garment at shoulder and other seams.

10. Some front or back facings are cut with the front or back (in one piece) so that you just turn the fabric under on a marked line and your facing is all made. Others have a separate piece that fits the front or back, in other words the two pieces are sewed together. If you can find a pattern where the facing is cut with the front, it will be simpler.

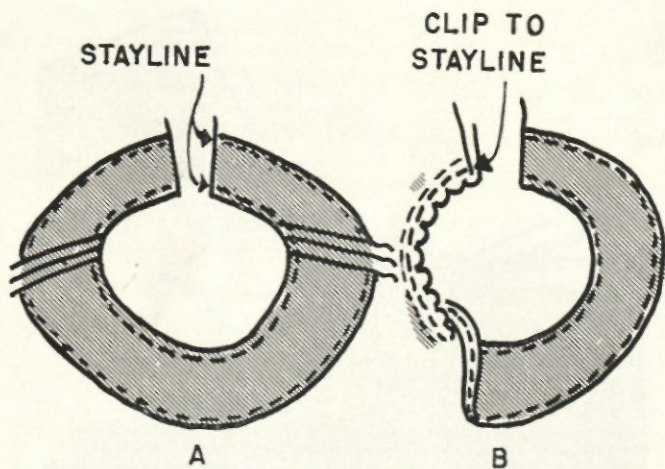


Figure 59a. A fitted facing for the neckline is usually sewed together at the shoulder seam just as the blouse and then pinned and stitched in a regular seam around the neckline.

Figure 59b. This seam at the neckline should be clipped so that it will lay flatter.

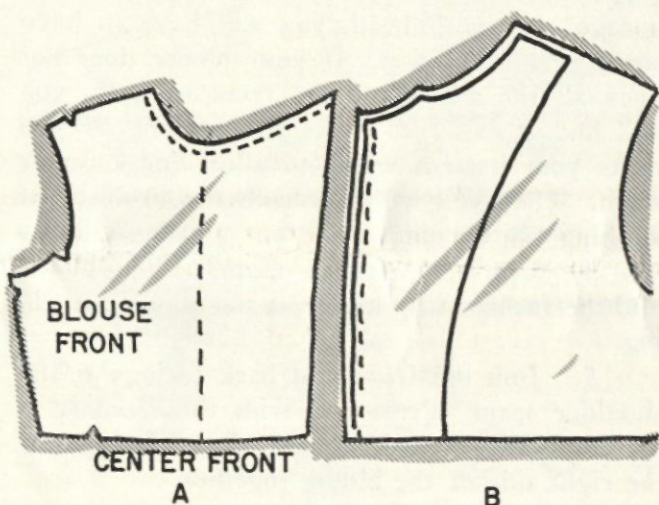


Figure 60a. Facing cut with the front blouse (in one piece).

Figure 60b. Facing an opening with a separate piece which is called a facing.

The Hem

It is not necessary to make a hem at the bottom of your blouse if you are going to wear your blouse inside your skirt.

You may prefer a small flat hem. However, sometimes this makes a line that shows through your skirt. Perhaps, you might like to finish the bottom of your blouse with a row or two of machine stitching close to the edge. The edge may be pinked or left plain.

We certainly hope you like your blouse and enjoy wearing it with your new skirt. Remember to have it clean and neat for the 4-H exhibit.

The Towel

If you choose to make a towel, perhaps you would like to follow these suggestions:

1. Choose your fabric—A yard of toweling, cotton or linen. Linen absorbs more water than other fibers, but it is more expensive. You might prefer to use feed sack material if you have it available.

2. Pull a thread. Just as in working with your skirt fabric, it is important that the toweling be "grain-perfect."

3. You might like to stayline stitch the ends of your towel. Stitch from one selvage edge of the towel to the center. Stitch this line about $\frac{1}{8}$ -inch from the raw edge. Turn the towel over and start stitching at the other selvage and stitch to the center.

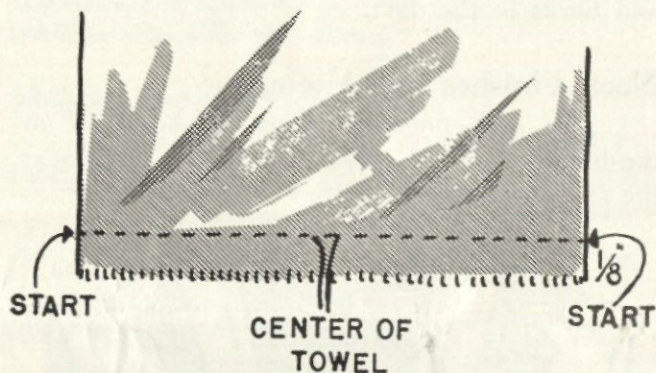


Figure 61. Stayline stitching the end of the towel from each selvage edge to the center of towel.

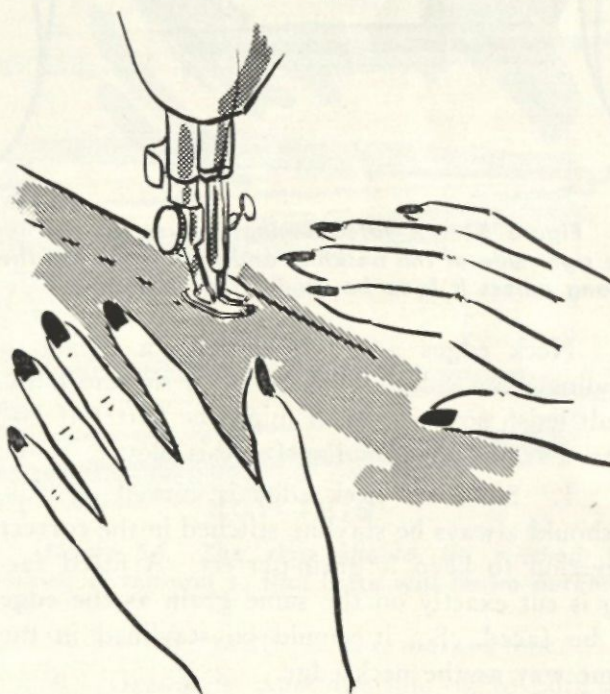


Figure 62. Sewing the hem in the towel by machine.

4. Now you have a line of stitching along one end of the towel. Turn the edge to the wrong side on this stayline. Crease.

5. Turn edge again and press lightly.

6. Pin to hold the hem in place.

7. Finish the other end of the towel in the same way.

8. You may finish this hem by stitching on the machine or by putting the hem in by hand sewing.

9. Remember to fasten the threads securely when you begin and end the hem.

10. Wash your towel and iron it carefully. It is already to use or be displayed at the 4-H exhibit.

The Dresser Scarf

If you choose to make a scarf for your dresser or dressing table, you might like to follow these suggestions:

1. Select the fabric. There are many fabrics to consider according to your preference. If your room is dainty you will no doubt prefer fabrics such as organdy, batiste, eyelet or a lacy fabric. If your room is more tailored, perhaps such fabrics as broadcloth, linen, or even gingham might be a good choice.

2. Measure the depth of your dresser to determine how much fabric you should buy. Most fabrics are a yard wide. That will be wide enough to take care of the length of the scarf. In other words, there will be selvage at each end of this scarf and the length of fabric you purchase will be determined by the width of the dresser.

3. Trim off the selvage. In case a yard is too long for a scarf for your dresser, cut off the amount necessary to make the scarf the correct length.

4. Pull a thread on all sides of the scarf so that it will be "grain-perfect".

5. The scarf is to be hemmed all the way around. Any width hem you wish to make may be used.

6. One easy way to make the hem is:

- Stayline stitch on all sides of the scarf about $\frac{1}{8}$ - to $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch from the edge.
- Turn the edge to the wrong side on the stayline stitching.

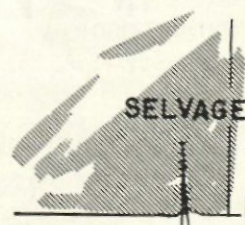


Figure 63. Pulling a thread around the dresser scarf so that it will be grain straight.

- Turn the hem again to the width desired. Crease and press lightly.
- The corners may be finished by turning each corner square, or the corners may be mitered.
- Finish the hem by hand sewing or machine stitching.

7. Wash and iron or press the scarf and it is ready for use. Have it neat and clean for the 4-H exhibit.

Sewing on Buttons

Buttons are used with buttonholes or loops to fasten a garment or for decoration or both. You may choose to use buttons and buttonholes on your skirt band or you may have used buttons on your blouse.

Perhaps you have known how to sew on buttons for a long time, but we would like you to sew on six buttons so you will learn to do it easily. Why not look over all your dresses and blouses for missing buttons? If you do not find any buttons to be sewed on your own garments, ask your mother about some for other members of the family.

1. When buttons are used as fasteners, sew them on after the buttonholes are made. Then they will be in exactly the right place.

2. Pin the opening of the garment closed.

3. Mark the position of the button through the buttonhole. Place the pin at the inside end of the buttonhole.

4. Use a strong double or single thread. Knot the thread.

5. Take a small stitch on the right side of the garment under the center of the button.

6. If the button to be sewed on does not have a shank, we need to make a loop or a thread shank. Run the needle through the holes of the button. After the first stitch, put a pin through

the stitch on top of the button as shown in figure 64 and sew back and forth over the pin. Continue to sew until the button is secure.

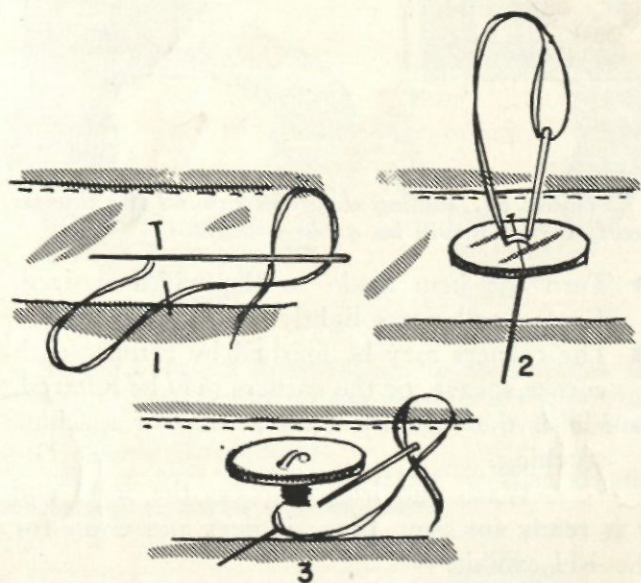


Figure 64. Making a thread shank when sewing on a button without a shank.

7. Bring the needle out between the button and the garment. Remove the pin.

8. Pull the button to the top of the loop formed by sewing on the button.

9. Wind the sewing thread around the thread between the garment and the button to form the shank. The shank allows the button-hole to lay as flat as possible under the button.

10. Fasten the thread by back-stitching under the button.

Buying Ankle Socks

Do you like to go shopping? Let's learn all we can about buying socks.

1. Take a look at the ankle socks you now

have to see how they have worn. If holes are worn in the toes and heels, then you may have been buying them too short. Maybe the socks are too short because they shrunk when washed. If the label does not say they have been pre-shrunk, you may need a size larger.

2. To measure the size socks you need, measure the length of your foot by stepping down on a ruler or yardstick. Buy socks that are 1 inch longer than your foot measurement. Socks which are long enough will be comfortable and will wear longer.

3. You will find some socks that will fit your ankle better than others. Try different types to see which you like best.

4. You will probably want some wool or part wool ankle socks for cold weather. Buy a larger size if there is no label saying they have been pre-shrunk.

5. Nylon and cotton mixture ankle socks are thin and cool for summer. They are more expensive than cotton socks, but they wear longer and shrink less than the cotton ones.

6. Your socks may have some or all of this information on the label. Learn to read the label carefully, for you will want to know the

- fiber used, as cotton or wool.
- how much they will shrink?
- whether they are color fast, and will not fade.
- how to wash.
- size of shoe to be worn with these socks.

7. You may wish to buy two pairs alike so when one sock of a pair is worn out, the good sock will match the good one of the other pair.

We hope you've had fun in Division II Clothing and that you will want to enroll in *Clothing III* next year.

The photographs featured on page 9, Figures 19-23, were made possible through the courtesy of the Talon Educational Service. Mention of any brand or trade name in this bulletin does not imply that the article so designated is recommended or endorsed by the Agricultural Extension Service of Purdue University over similar articles not mentioned.

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